



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday
7 July 2015 at Fellowship House Willifield Way at 8.00pm

Present: David B Lewis - in the Chair, Tony Brand, Terry Brooks, Alan Brudney, Lynda Cook, Tony Ghilchik, Charles Gale, Colin Gregory, Anita Harlow, Louise Hillman, Stephanie Hurst, David Littaur, Max Petersen, Frances Prentice, Hella Shrader, Jonathan Seres, Gary Shaw, Hella Schrader, Ann Spencer, Diane Walsh. Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council).

Visitor: Joyce Littaur, Ian Tutton

1 Apologies for Absence

Douglas Blausten, Brian Ingram, Jeremy Hershkorn, Amanda Reuben, Simon Sackman, John Sells.

2 Question Time. There were no questions

3 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on May 5th 2015

Question Time

'thought' should be replaced by 'through' in the third line

Minutes of the Executive Committee held on June 2nd 2015

These were received

4 Matters arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda.

EC Minutes 2nd June 2015

Membership Committee

FP was concerned that no progress had been made with the Membership committee and no meetings have been held. **Action: DBL** will talk to Janet Elliott

Marketing Committee

FP queried the process whereby the draft paper had only been circulated to and discussed by the EC. DW pointed out that the final version has not been agreed and DBL confirmed that it will be circulated to Council in the usual way.

CG said that all committee minutes are circulated to Council and this has shown to be effective.

Action: DW will circulate all Minutes of the Marketing Committee to Council even if they have not yet been approved by the Committee.

BT Broadband Proposals

TB said that the copy for the latest E news had been agreed and sent to Frederick Wakefield. It included details of the BT proposals for enhancing speed in part of the North side. In future the Chairman should approve all copy before being sent for distribution through E news.

Virtual Gallery and Richard Wakefield Memorial

FP said that she would like to be involved with this project and DBL suggested that she talks to Paul Wenham,

5 Co-option of Ian Tutton

David Lewis proposed and Tony Brand seconded a Motion

That Rev Ian Tutton should be co-opted to the Council

This was passed unanimously

6 Rose Garden – Application for grant by Northway Gardens Organisation

TG said that the Trees & Open Spaces committee had recommended that a grant of £1,000 be given to this group headed by BI. Subsequently a revised application had been submitted requesting £475 being the balance of money spent on remedial work to the beds less donations, and £1,919 for compost needed in the Autumn of 2015.

CG said that Committee recommended no change to their original recommendation but Council should decide whether payment should be made in one or two tranches.

JS said he would like BI to be asked for a detailed programme for composting as previously he mentioned composting in Autumn 2015, Spring and Autumn 2016 and it was unclear whether £1,919 was for three separate compostings or only for October 2015, with further requests for funding in the future. HS pointed out that the state of the ground is abysmal and a great deal of work had been carried out.

JS wanted to ensure that recognition is given to the RA and that no further adverse comments are made about the RA. GS was concerned about giving any money due to the constant criticism of the RA and its volunteers by BI. LC thought that for the sake of the rose garden the money should be given and the effort of BI's group should be supported but BI should be asked to stop making adverse comments. AS agreed with this. CG thought that the question of criticism of the RA should be dealt with as a separate matter.

DW was opposed to making any condition to the grant. She suggested that money should be paid on production of the receipts. DBL thought that the grant by the RA should be acknowledged in the rose garden with a plaque or as part of a plaque. He had asked BI to desist from his negative comments.

Jonathan Seres proposed and Tony Brand seconded a Motion

That the RA makes a grant to the Northway Gardens Organisation for £475 plus £950 for one half of the cost of the manure making a total of £1,425

Max Petersen proposed an amendment which Francis Prentice seconded which would amend the motion to the following:

That the RA makes a grant to the Northway Gardens Organisation for £475 plus £1,919, making a total of £2,394. This was carried by 12 votes in favour, 5 against with 2 abstentions.

The Motion as amended was then passed by 13 votes in favour 3 against and 3 abstentions.

7 Proposed RA select committee to examine noise in the Suburb

GS had circulated Draft Terms of Reference for the proposed Select Committee to Council as follows:

1 To identify sources of noise nuisance in the Suburb and to consider ways in which these might be mitigated for the benefit of residents who suffer disturbance in accordance with the Objects of the Association

2 To examine whether unacceptable levels of noise nuisance might be addressed by social pressure or by statutory power and in the latter case whether local or national government should be lobbied to create new legislation or to enforce existing laws

3 The Group will meet approximately quarterly and members will assess after one year what progress has been made and whether it should continue.

GS proposed and the Chairman seconded a motion that these Terms of Reference be approved by Council with 15 in favour and 2 abstentions

The following have agreed to be members of the Select Committee: David B. Lewis, Gary Shaw, Diane Walsh, Peter McCluskie, Judith Samson, Ellen Gilbert and Nicola Lipton and they cover most parts of the Suburb.

8 City of London – Proposed Open Spaces Bill

CG reported that the City of London owns and manages Hampstead Heath and other spaces and is managed under an Act of Parliament. The City of London wishes to promote a private bill to harmonise their management powers as the existing Act is unclear and does not provide adequate powers. The new powers will have to endure, as opportunities to promote legislation arise infrequently. The local management plans will need to be kept under review and modified as required.

The City of London will need authority to raise revenue eg weddings in the pergola, to sell off surplus property and to ensure that enforcement powers are up to date eg to be able to issue penalty notices.

The Bill is likely to be introduced in November and CG understood that it would probably become law in 2017. CG wanted a dialogue on the proposals now rather than petitioning against it at a later date which is a time-consuming and expensive process

Trees Committee had responded to the consultation and circulated a comprehensive letter expressing concerns about the breadth of many of the proposed powers and the safeguards which will be put in place and particularly on the duty to keep the Heath 'open unenclosed and unbuilt upon'. It is understood that the 1871 Hampstead Heath Act will be repealed but the wording will be replicated in the new Act.

There were concerns about the power to grant leases for up to 21 years. Checks are needed on the way revenue-generating powers might be used and the number and scale of any events.

There were concerns about the sale of buildings “no longer required for management purposes” and what safeguards are proposed.

A Meeting had taken place with the City of London officer who liaises with parliament who listened to these concerns

DBL, TG and CG will meet to discuss these issues with the Chairman of the Heath Management Committee..

TB congratulated CG on the letter and said he hoped that there will be effective safeguards

9 Finance

LH said that there was little to report.

She had circulated the accounts and there is an extra sheet dividing the full year forecasts between Publications, Events and other. **Action: LS** is updating the gallery accounts

AS asked LH about the provision for membership software which she said is the support fee and an opportunity to upgrade.

10 Litchfield Way/Meadway Roundabout

This could not be discussed in the absence of Brian Ingram who had placed it on the Agenda

11 CCTV – Barnet roads

GS explained that LBB have voted powers to enforce traffic restrictions by CCTV. **Action: GS** will inform the Councillors that the RA would be concerned if new restrictions are introduced.

AG would like to see a pedestrian crossing in Finchley Road by Marks and Spencer. But GS thought that LB Barnet is not responsible for this.

12 Committee Reports

Consam

Unfortunately Geoffrey Spyer is unwell and has stood down as Chairman of Consam. David Lewis will be chairing meetings on a temporary basis until a new chairman is elected by the committee. Consam had reintroduced RA/Trust liaison Meetings and a meeting will shortly take place.

Events

DLt said that the picnic was a huge success and 300/400 people had attended. £332 was raised from the cake stall for Resources for Autism. Two Councillors had attended and DLt thanked all the volunteers and the Events committee for all the work they had done.

Although the final figures were not yet available DLt thought that the cost of the picnic would be well below budget. IT asked if he could have the date for next year’s summer picnic as soon as possible to enable him to plan for events at the Free Church. **Action: DLt**

The issue of heavy vehicles trying to exit, as cars were arriving for the last night of the St Jude's Proms was raised and will be looked into in due course.

Trees & Open Spaces

CG reported that there will be no reduction in the frequency in litter collection on the Heath Extension and that there will be an increase in collection from the dog faeces bins. The bridge from the field next to Sunshine Corner will be replaced.

CG told Council that the Oak Processionary Moth has been introduced into the UK and has recently been found on Hampstead Heath. It can be harmful to humans and is potentially a significant problem. The Forestry Commission has issued an order to dispose of these nests. The Committee will monitor and report back and LC is carrying out some research.

Publications

TB said that the publication of Suburb News will be delayed by a few days.

Membership

Action: DBL will talk to Janet Elliott and ask her for a report for the September Council meeting.

AS thought that the situation is unsatisfactory and that other Council members should be able to use the membership software. HS said that she is learning to use this.

Litter Team

ChG had requested email addresses of the litter team as he wanted volunteers to assist with clearing up after the picnic, but he had not been able to get them. **Action:** HS agreed to help obtain these from membership records.

13 Any Other Urgent Business

Notice Boards

FP had circulated the notice board holders asking them if they agree to their addresses being circulated to other approved organisations.

14 To confirm the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 1st September 2015 at Fellowship House and future RA Council meeting dates of 3rd November and 1st December 2015

It was agreed that there should be an Open Meeting on Suburb Crime on 13th October. Representatives from the police and security companies will be invited to attend. **Action:** GS